

Did that contract have to be no bid? What made the wife of the nephew of the Governor, who is a former RNC chairman, who just also happens to have been a Republican Party activist, what made her the most qualified? Coincidentally? Coincidentally? Oh, gee, she just happens to be related to the Governor of Mississippi, who is the former RNC chairman and who happened to get a no-bid contract, 10 no-bid contracts for services that I would not deem emergency, that needed to not take the time we would like to require in terms of accountability for reviewing contracts and making sure it goes to the responsible bidder, the person who is going to provide that service in the most economical way.

I know we are coming in on our last few minutes.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. We have a few minutes, but the majority treats government like it is their own personal sandbox.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Yes, like it is their piggy bank.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Exactly. And they can do whatever they want to do, take care of their friends, and do it using the taxpayers' dollars.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. And, Mr. RYAN, if we could point to some of these things and they could justifiably say these are anomalies, these are outlandish things that only happen on occasion, but, look: pages and pages. Look how thick this notebook is. I am not making this up.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, you have local contractors. You have local contractors that are saying they are not getting work. They are saying they are not getting work.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. They do not have the connections. That is why they are not getting the work.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. They are not getting the work.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And the workers are not getting the prevailing wage.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. But, meanwhile, say it again before we close. Just read what you read about the contracts, just in case some Member went and picked up some coffee or something.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. The wife of the nephew of the Republican Governor of Mississippi, former RNC chairman, \$6.4 million in contracts, 10 separate contracts from FEMA and the GSA that were no-bid, for services like providing laundry equipment, delivering tents, and maintaining showers for relief workers.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Wait a minute. I think you guys are being a little hard on the Governor here, because his press secretary says that "the Governor had no knowledge whatsoever of Rosemary's receiving that contract."

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. RYAN, just stop.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. No, I think you are being a little hard on him. His press secretary, KENDRICK, said he did

not know anything about it. Are you saying you do not believe him?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Just because he says it, does not mean it is true.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. You are saying you do not believe him.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. No, we are saying there is a continuation of the culture of cronyism and corruption, and it is time to give government back to the people. And that is what we want to do next year, give government back to the people; make sure government can be responsive to the people's needs and provide for the needs of the people who need the most help.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And time and time again you have the act itself, everybody knows what is happening, and then you have the press secretary come out, just like the White House press secretary said Scooter Libby did not know anything. Karl Rove did not know anything. No one knew anything, but the facts say something completely different, Mr. MEEK.

And it is a shame that this culture of corruption, cronyism, and incompetence is so pervasive throughout the United States Congress and our government.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Before you give the Web site out, Mr. RYAN, I want to say that for every time we have pointed out a culture of corruption and cronyism and incompetence, they are still at work doing it.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. We can do better.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. That is the sad part.

Mr. DELAHUNT. We can do it together.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Together America can do better and a stronger America begins right here at home.

30somethingdems@mail.house.gov.
Thirty, the number,
somethingdems@mail.house.gov.

Thank you, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MEEK, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida (at the request of Mr. BLUNT) for the week of December 6 on account of medical reasons.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (at the request of Mr. BLUNT) for today after 3:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of attending a funeral.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WYNN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GUTKNECHT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today and December 8.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, December 14.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 52. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey a parcel of real property to Beaver County, Utah.

S. 136. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide supplemental funding and other services that are necessary to assist certain local school districts in the State of California in providing educational services for students attending schools located within Yosemite National Park, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, to adjust the boundaries of Redwood National Park, and for other purposes.

S. 212. An act to amend the Valles Caldera Preservation Act to improve the preservation of the Valles Caldera, and for other purposes.

S. 279. An act to amend the Act of June 7, 1924, to provide for the exercise of criminal jurisdiction.

S. 1886. An act to authorize the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 8, 2005, at 10 a.m.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true